

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 5 and 6 are pending in the application.

Claim Amendments

Claim 5

Amended claim 5, now in independent form, is a combination of prior dependent claim 5 and independent claim 1 and dependent claim 4.

Claim 6

Dependent claim 6 has been amended to change its dependency to claim 5.

Claims 7 to 10

Method claims 7 to 10, which are non-elected, withdrawn claims due to the restriction requirement, have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of a divisional patent application directed to the subject matter of claims 7 to 10.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicants are pleased to note that the Office Action advises at page 4 that claim 5 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

§102/§103

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japan No. 2000-160284.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 to 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan No. 02-47240 in view of Japan No. 2000-160284.

These rejections, as applied to the amended claims, are respectfully traversed.

Patentability

In view of the advice of the Office Action at page 4 that dependent claim 5 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is submitted that amended, now independent, claim 5 is patentable.

Amended, now independent, claim 5 contains the limitations of independent claim 1.

It is therefore submitted that amended claim 5, and claim 6 dependent thereon, are patentable.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that in view of the present amendment and foregoing remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed and passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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